

**Draft Summary of the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting
Oroville Facilities Relicensing (FERC Project No. 2100)
August 19, 2002**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted a meeting for the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group on August 19, 2002 at DWR's offices in Sacramento.

A summary of the discussion, decisions made, and action items is provided below. This summary is not intended to be a transcript, analysis of the meeting, or to indicate agreement or disagreement with any of the items summarized, except where expressly stated. The intent is to present a summary for interested parties who could not attend the meeting. The following are attachments to this summary:

Attachment 1	Meeting Agenda
Attachment 2	Meeting Attendees
Attachment 3	Flip Chart Notes
Attachment 4	Oroville Relicensing Collaborative Draft Schedule for Plenary and Work Group Meetings: August 2002 – July 2003
Attachment 5	Possible Types of Key Observation Points (KOPs) Around the Oroville Project
Attachment 6	Potential Key Observation Points (KOP) Locations

Introduction

Attendees were welcomed to the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting. Several people participated in the meeting via teleconference. Attendees introduced themselves and their affiliations. The Work Group reviewed the desired outcomes of the meeting. The meeting agenda and list of meeting attendees are appended to this summary as Attachments 1 and 2, respectively. Meeting flip chart notes are included as Attachment 3.

Action Items – June 24, 2002 Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group Meeting

A summary of the June 24, 2002 Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting is posted on the relicensing web site. The Facilitator reviewed the status of action items from that meeting as follows:

Action Item #LU39: Notify proper agencies, including the local District Attorney and Sheriff's office, prior to starting daily field work.

Status: This concern was raised at the previous Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting in regards to potential damage to cultural resource sites being surveyed. Jim Martin (DWR) informed the Work Group that this issue was discussed at an earlier Resource Area Manager (RAM) meeting and that Len Marino (DWR) is in charge of protocol/procedures for field study implementation. It was clarified that all DWR field staff are readily identifiable with hats, ID cards, and in the near future, vests.

Action Item #LU40: Check that GPS measurement units used in identifying KOPs are compatible with units used by other Work Groups (e.g., Cultural Work Group using UTM coordinates).

Status: Several Work Groups are in the process of collecting spatial information related to their studies, including the Cultural Resource and Environmental Work Groups. It is not known whether the GPS data are being collected in the same units; however, Bill Mendenhall (DWR GIS staff) was consulted and he stated that all GPS data could be converted readily into equivalent units.

Review of Work Group and Plenary Group Meetings

The Facilitator began the meeting by distributing an updated meeting schedule that extends to July 2003 (see Attachment 4). The Facilitator also provided updates on the status of various work groups, including the Environmental, Cultural Resources, Recreation and Socioeconomics, and Engineering and Operations work groups.

The Environmental Work Group has approved several fishery study plans since the last update. There is now only one outstanding study (SP-F9), which deals with fish hatchery effects. This study plan will be reviewed and considered for approval at the next Environmental Work Group meeting.

The Cultural Resources and Recreation and Socioeconomics work groups have not met since the last update. No new information is available.

The Engineering and Operations Work Group is scheduled to meet with the Yuba Feather Work Group on August 23, 2002. The Yuba Feather Work Group is not affiliated with the Oroville Relicensing process; however, they are involved with proposed flood control projects in the project area. One such project is a proposed "rubber dam" on Lake Oroville. This and other similar flood control projects are not being considered in the study plans; however, they may need to be considered in the cumulative impact analysis required under the relicensing process if actual project proposals are initiated by others.

Key Observation Points Identification

Mark Greenig (EDAW) began the discussion on key observation points (KOPs) by summarizing the FERC requirements regarding visual resource assessments for hydropower projects. FERC does not specifically require KOPs be used to evaluate the aesthetic effects of projects, particularly on projects undergoing relicensing that would not have significant changes to facilities and operations. However, due to the complex nature of this project and issues raised during scoping, it was decided that it would be beneficial to perform a visual assessment of the project area using KOPs that will provide a good representation of the project area. The purpose of the visual assessment is two-fold: (1) to provide FERC a general sense of the visual character of the Project area, and (2) to show existing versus proposed Project conditions, where the proposed Project refers to potential protection, mitigation and enhancement measures (PMEs) that may be implemented as a result of the relicensing process. Two handouts were provided to the Work Group detailing potential types and locations of KOPs in the vicinity of Lake Oroville (see Attachments 5 and 6, respectively).

Mark Greenig also provided an update on SP-L4 (Aesthetics), where the visual assessment information will be presented. At this point, a preliminary list of KOPs have been identified and refined with initial feedback from the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group. The preliminary KOPs were displayed on a large quad-based map during the meeting for review. These KOPs have been photographed and documented at high-pool elevations; photographs will also be taken at low- and possibly mid-pool elevations. The documentation includes a complete description of the KOPs, including visible Project features. Draft KOP write-ups were shown to the participants as an example of the type of work product that will be included in an appendix to the aesthetics resource report.

The participants reviewed and discussed the preliminary list of KOPs displayed on the map and suggested new KOP locations for consideration. Suggested additional KOP locations included the outfall area, Loafer Creek area (including the area between the picnic area and the reservoir), Lakeland Boulevard (towards the Diversion Pool), Riverbend Park (not in Project study area), bridge near the fish hatchery (river view in both directions), site where the flash dam was (south of Surplus City), Oroville Wildlife Area (OWA), Highway 99 CDFG fish hatchery, and Highway 70 at

Thermalito Forebay (Garden Drive intersection). The participants also expressed the desire to have adequate "representative" views of the Project area, including the Afterbay and OWA.

The next steps in the process were described as follows: refine and finalize the KOP list; photograph KOPs at low-pool elevations (September/October 2002); Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group review of KOP write-ups; and photograph KOPs at high-pool elevations in 2003 that were not photographed in 2002. At some future date, the consultant team and the participants will also need to identify those KOPs that will be evaluated in greater detail (e.g., KOPs representing views of known mitigation areas or improvements).

The participants also discussed potential PME's related to visual resources. It was noted that aesthetic-related PME's do not all necessarily need to be in response to other PME's developed by other work groups (e.g., visual screening of a new recreation facility). Visual PME's can be developed to enhance the overall visual character of the Project area. For example, one proactive measure is the vegetative enhancement on the Oroville Dam face, which has been identified as an interim project. One participant also suggested that similar enhancement could be performed on the Highway 99 levee structure.

Study Plan Implementation

A brief summary of the five Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics study plans was presented to the participants. The study plans are all in their initial stages, with all task orders approved. It was clarified that SP-LU1 (Land Use) will provide a general overview of land use in the study area, not a parcel-by-parcel analysis of land use. SP-L3 (Comprehensive Plan Consistency) will look at all comprehensive plans applicable to the project; a preliminary list of these plans has been compiled by FERC, but the list will need to be updated and expanded based on research and coordination with other work groups. One example of a plan that will need to be considered is a proposed Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that is being developed in the City of Oroville. SP-LU5 (Fuel Load Management) will be completed by EDAW staff in Sacramento with coordination with DWR staff working on the vegetative mapping for the project.

An attempt will be made to schedule the studies so that study deliverables will be staggered to facilitate Work Group review. The consultant team also agreed to strive to provide deliverables one week prior to Work Group meetings to facilitate discussion and review.

An unofficial schedule for study plan deliverables will be distributed at the next Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting. Also, the participants were informed that Kearns and West is developing a Gantt chart/matrix that show linkages among the various study plans which is tentatively due at the beginning of September 2002.

Next Meeting and Next Steps

At the previous Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting, participants agreed that monthly Work Group meetings are not required during this general timeframe. However, the participants agreed that a September 2002 meeting would likely be needed to discuss the status of the studies. As such, the next Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group meeting will be:

Date: Monday, September 23, 2002
Time: 6:00 to 10:00 PM
Location: Oroville (Depot Restaurant)

Action Items

The following list of action items identified by the Land Use, Land Management and Aesthetics Work Group includes a description of the action, the participant responsible for the action, and item status.

Action Item #LU41: If available, provide project Gantt chart developed by Kearns & West to the Land Use, Land Management, and Aesthetics Work Group at the next Work Group meeting.

Responsible: DWR / Consultant Team

Due Date: September 23, 2002